

Weekly Field Memo – June 11, 2014

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NEWS & UPDATES:

Safe Schools Blog – Sharing Voices from the Field

Audience: All

We've added new voices to our [Let's Talk About School Safety](#) blog!

- [Rick Dustin-Eichler, Dothan Brook School Principal](#)
- [Sherry Dumont, MVU Special Educator](#)
- [Jamie Evans, Spaulding High School Facilities Director](#)
- [Liz Parris, Winooski School District Health Officer Coordinator / School Nurse](#)
- [Julie Regimbal, FCSU Interim Superintendent & Director of Special Education](#)
- [Ken Page, VPA Executive Director](#)

Check out the blog here: <http://education.vermont.gov/lets-talk-education>. Interested in contributing?

Please contact Angela Ross via [email](#).

Contact: Angela Ross, Public Information Officer, 802-479-1240 or angela.ross@state.vt.us

Luke Foley, 2014 VT Teacher of the Year, Featured on NNSTOY Blog

Audience: All

[Click here](#) to read Luke's latest blog post, *The Bowl of Fruit*. Learn more about Luke and the VT Teacher of the Year program here: <http://bit.ly/J8JmcG>. Read Luke's blog here: lukefoleyvt.blogspot.com/, and connect with him on Twitter: [@LukeFoleyVT](#).

Contact: Luke Foley, Northfield STAR Program & 2014 VT Teacher of the Year, foleyl@wssu.org

Spotlight on Agency Contact Info: Special Education Finance Team

Audience: All

The special education finance team can be reached as follows:

- State Special Education Funding: <http://education.vermont.gov/special-ed-finance-and-medicaid>
 - Contact: Brenda Buker, brenda.buker@state.vt.us or 802-479-1118
- IDEA B Funding: <http://education.vermont.gov/special-ed-finance-and-medicaid/idea-b-funding>
 - Contact: Cassandra Morton, cassandra.morton@state.vt.us or 802-479-1128
- School-Based Health Services (Medicaid): <http://bit.ly/1kOWQuI>
 - Contact: Nicole Tousignant, nicole.tousignant@state.vt.us or 802-479-1137

The Agency's website lists our contact information here: <http://education.vermont.gov/contact>

GRANTS/RFPs/REIMBURSEMENT:

Community Eligibility Provision for Your School Meal Program - Implementation

Audience: All

June 30, 2014

Schools may now offer universal free meals to their students through the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) starting in school year 2014-2015. Schools that plan to participate in CEP must complete and submit their program agreement and other required forms. The deadline for submission is June 30, 2014. The required documents and materials are online: <http://bit.ly/1pkMc1y>.

Contact: Laurie Colgan, Child Nutrition Program, 802-479-1187 or laurie.colgan@state.vt.us

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

Vermont Professional Learning Network: Online Courses

Audience: All Vermont Educators

Supervising CCSS Instruction, a flexible schedule, asynchronous online course, begins June 23. Course topics include, Common Core standards in the context of leadership, technology integration and the use of up-to-date classroom observation tools and strategies. Learn more here: www.VermontPLN.org.

Contacts: Lauren Wooden at Lauren.Wooden@VermontPLN.org; Bob Stanton at Bob.Stanton@VermontPLN.org; Casey Murrow at Casey.Murrow@VermontPLN.org

STANDARDS & ASSESSMENTS:



Common Core State Standards (CCSS): Secondary Literacy Resources Across Content Areas

Audience: Grades 6-12 Educators

Looking for multidisciplinary performance assessment strategies and exemplars? Join the group for middle and high school ELA & Literacy resource sharing across English, social studies, science, and the technical subjects. Join our Secondary ELA & Literacy Group on ve2 here: ve2.vermont.gov/. Check out the latest Scoop.it! resources for grades 6-12 ELA & Literacy here: <http://goo.gl/SusIYR>.

Contact: Kris Breen, Secondary ELA & Literacy Coordinator, 802-479-1870 or kris.breen@state.vt.us



Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS): FAQ

Audience: All

What is Science and Engineering Practice #3: Planning and Carrying Out Investigations? [Click here](#) to see the answer. [Click here](#) to access the science standards.

Contacts: Gail Hall, Middle-High School Science, 802-479-1284 or gail.hall@state.vt.us; Kathy Renfrew, K-5 Science, 802-479-1448 or kathy.renfrew@state.vt.us



Smarter Balanced: ELA/Literacy and Mathematics Performance Task Item Specifications Posted

Audience: All

With the addition of ELA/literacy and mathematics performance task item specifications, all Smarter Balanced item and task specifications have been posted to the public website and are accessible at www.smarterbalanced.org/smarter-balanced-assessments/.

Contacts: Michael Hock, State Assessment Director, 802-479-1288 or michael.hock@state.vt.us; Mary Ann Minardo, Teacher Outreach Coordinator, 802-479-1309 or maryann.minardo@state.vt.us; Frank Gerdeman, ISL -Secondary & Adult Assistant Director, 802-479-1381 or frank.gerdeman@state.vt.us

OTHER EDUCATION NEWS FROM OUR PARTNERS:

Gov. Shumlin appoints Dylan McAllister to student seat on the Vermont Board of Education

Audience: All

McAllister, a student at Hazen UHS, has been active in [Youth and Adults Transforming Schools Together](#) (YATST), an organization committed to using a student-teacher-community partnership to give students a voice in education decision-making. He will be the student representative next year on the Hazen Union School Board. [Click here](#) to read the press release.

Contact: Sue Allen, Governor Shumlin's Office, 802-279-8493 or susan.allen@state.vt.us

Gov. Shumlin signs law making quality education available to every 3 & 4 year old

Audience: All

Gov. Peter Shumlin signed into law legislation making at least 10 hours per week of high-quality education available to every 3- and 4-year-old child in Vermont. In addition, he released Vermont's Early Childhood Action Plan, the result of a year-long, statewide collaborative effort led by the Governor's office, the Vermont Agency of Human Services, the Vermont Agency of Education, and advocates for early learning initiatives. [Click here](#) to read the press release.

Contact: Sue Allen, Governor Shumlin's Office, 802-279-8493 or susan.allen@state.vt.us

Financial Literacy Reading Program – Now Accepting Registrations from VT Schools

Audience: K-6th Grade Librarians, Teachers, Principals

Deadline: June 30, 2014

The Vermont State Treasurer's Office is accepting school sign-ups for the **FREE** [Reading is an Investment](#) program. The program supports reading and teaching elementary-age children about money and basic financial information. Receive three hardback fiction books each year, along with a curriculum guide.

Contact: Lisa Helme, State Treasurer's Office, 802-828-3706 or lisa.helme@state.vt.us

Vermont Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS): Three Data Briefs on Obesity among Vermont Youth

Audience: All

The Vermont Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) asks high school students to report their weight and height. From this information, estimates for BMI are derived.

- [Demographics and Obesity](#)
- [Physical Activity and Nutrition and Obesity](#)
- [Personal Safety and Substance Use and Obesity](#)

Contact: Shayla Livingston, Vermont Dept. of Health, 802-863-6337 or shayla.livingston@state.vt.us

Button Up Video Contest

Audience: Middle/High School Principals

Capstone Community Action (formerly Central Vermont Community Action Council) will hold a contest this fall for very short videos that relate to the theme of Button Up. Teachers are encouraged to get

students involved to help prevent wasting energy and motivate people to “plug the leaks.” Details for the contest will be finalized in the next few weeks and updates will be posted at www.buttonupvt.org/.
Contact: Paul Zabriskie, Weatherization/EnergySmart of Vermont, 802-477-5224 or pzabriskie@cvcac.org

Vermont Energy Education Program's (VEEP) Summer Teacher Institutes

Audience: 4th-12th grade Science teachers

VEEP will be training teachers in our NGSS and Common Core aligned renewable energy curricula PVs Clean and Green (July 28-30 in Rutland) and The Solar Challenge (August 11-14 in Burlington). Learn more and register here: <http://veep.org/veep-programs/teacher-training/>.

Contact: Cara Robeck, VEEP, at 802-552-8450 or cara.robek@veep.org

55 New England Colleges & Universities Support Stronger Student Preparation

Audience: All

The full text of the endorsement is available on the New England Secondary School Consortium (NESSC) website: newenglandssc.org/resources/endorsement. Read the press release here: <http://bit.ly/1s66tKd>.

Contact: Stephen Abbot, NESSC, 207-773-0505 or sabbot@greatschoolspartnership.org

This Field Memo is posted weekly by the Vermont Agency of Education (VT-AOE) to better organize our e-communications to the field. There may be times when separate messages from the Agency will still be sent. In addition, the VT-AOE Weekly Field Memo is [archived](#) on the Agency of Education website. For information which is three months or older, or for other questions, please contact Angela Ross, Public Information Officer, at (802) 479-1240 or angela.ross@state.vt.us.

Sign up for the weekly field memo here: http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/field_memo.html

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